

Robert E. Cushman Is Dead; Former Marine Commandant

By PETER KERR

Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., a former Commandant of the Marine Corps and deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died Wednesday at his home in Fort Washington, Md., apparently of a heart attack, a Pentagon spokesman said Thursday. He was 70 years old.

Although he was decorated as a hero in World War II and, in Vietnam, was awarded the largest troop command ever held by a Marine officer, General Cushman had a career that was most influenced by his relationship with a civilian — Richard M. Nixon.

President Nixon, whom General Cushman had served as an adviser in the 1950's, passed over more senior officers to nominate General Cushman as Commandant of the Marine Corps in November 1971. And it was General Cushman's association with the Nixon Administration that drew the general into the growing storm of Watergate in 1973, when it was disclosed that he had initially approved C.I.A. assistance for the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971. Dr. Ellsberg was a former national security aide who said he was responsible for releasing the Pentagon Papers to the press.

Joined Marines in 1935

Robert Everton Cushman Jr. was born in St. Paul, Minn., on Dec. 24, 1914. He went to public schools there

and then attended the Naval Academy, where he finished 10th in his class of 442 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1935.

After serving as a platoon commander in Shanghai for two years, he was commander of the marine detachment aboard the battleship Pennsylvania when she was attacked at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

In World War II he repeatedly led his battalion into combat in the Pacific, earning the Bronze Star with a Combat V on Bougainville and the Legion of Merit with Combat V in the Iwo Jima campaign. As a 29-year-old lieutenant colonel on Guam, he earned the Navy Cross, the nation's second-highest medal, for moving to the front of his crumbling battalion and setting up a defense against a Japanese attack.

He served in numerous posts in Europe and the United States before becoming chief adviser on national security affairs to Vice President Nixon, and he was promoted to brigadier general in 1958.

General Cushman was sent to Vietnam in April 1967, and by June was promoted to lieutenant general in charge of the Third Marine Amphibious Force and I Corps, commanding 162,000 Army and Marine troops in the northernmost provinces. No other Marine officer had ever commanded so many battlefield troops.

During his Vietnam command Gen-



Associated Press

Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr.

eral Cushman stressed troop mobility and the use of helicopters.

In 1969, shortly after Nixon became President, General Cushman was appointed deputy director of the C.I.A. It was in that role that he was asked by John D. Ehrlichman, then chief assistant to the President for domestic affairs, to provide assistance for what turned out to be the burglary of Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Although the C.I.A. later refused to lend assistance to the White House unit that carried out the burglary, General Cushman was called to testify before Congressional committees investigating Watergate.

At a Senate Watergate Committee hearing on Aug. 2, 1973, a transcript was released of a recorded conversation between General Cushman and E. Howard Hunt, who helped engineer the burglary of the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate office and apartment complex. It showed Mr. Hunt had asked for "alias documentation" and disguises, and the general had said he thought the agency could assist him.

As Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1972 to 1975, General Cushman resisted the movement by other services to provide a more relaxed, less military image after Vietnam. Recruitment was still aimed at those seeking to join a tough, elite military service.

He also acted to end voluntary segregation of Marine facilities where blacks and whites chose to bunk and congregate along racial lines.

General Cushman is survived by his wife, Audrey Boyce Cushman, and two children, Robert Ed and Mrs. Bernard Cauley.

WASHINGTON POST
4 January 1985

OBITUARIES

R.E. Cushman, Retired Marine General, Dies

By Richard Pearson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Robert E. Cushman Jr., 70, a retired Marine Corps general who was one of the most highly decorated combat veterans of World War II and was a deputy director of the CIA before serving as Marine Corps commandant from 1972 to 1975, died Jan. 2 at his home in Fort Washington after a heart attack.

Gen. Cushman spent 40 years on active duty. Decorations he won during World War II included the Navy Cross, the Corps' highest award for valor except for the Medal of Honor, which he received as a battalion commander on Guam.

Serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969, he rose to the post of commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force. Comprising some 163,000 soldiers and marines, it was the largest combined combat unit ever led by a marine.

From 1957 to 1960, he was assistant for national security affairs to Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941, Gen. Cushman held the rank of captain and was commander of the Marine detachment aboard the battleship Pennsylvania at Pearl. With his ship out of action as a result of the Japanese attack, Gen. Cushman returned to the mainland, then in January 1943 embarked for the Pacific, where he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and became a lieutenant colonel.

During the next two years, he led his battalion through some of the roughest fighting of the Pacific war. Gen. Cushman earned the Bronze Star with combat "v" device at Bougainville, the Legion of Merit with combat "v" at Iwo Jima, and the Navy Cross during the recapture of Guam.

At Guam, his battalion was ordered to seize and hold a strongly defended enemy strongpoint, which had held up the Marine advance for three days.

The citation for his award described how Gen. Cushman "directed the attacks of his battalion and the repulse of numerous Japanese counterattacks, fearlessly exposing himself to heavy hostile rifle, machine gun and mortar fire in order to remain in the front lines and obtain firsthand knowledge of the enemy situation. Following three days of bitter fighting culminating in a heavy Japanese counterattack, which pushed back the flank of his battalion, he personally led a platoon into the gap and, placing it for defense, repelled the hostile force. He contributed to the annihilation of one enemy battalion and the rout of another."

After the war, he held a variety of staff and training posts, including instructor of the command and staff school and head of the amphibious warfare branch of the Navy Department's Naval Research Office. During the 1950s, his assignments included a stint as an instructor at the Armed Forces Staff College.

From 1962 to 1964, he served as assistant chief of staff for intelligence and for plans, operations, and training. From 1964 to 1967, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as base commander and head of the 5th Division.

He then went to Vietnam, where he earned two Distinguished Service medals and gained a reputation for independence and tactical innovation. Commanding in South Vietnam's northernmost provinces, he privately took issue with his commanders' instructions from Saigon, especially about the defense of the

American bastion at Khesanh, which was besieged by the enemy for months. Gen. Cushman was believed to have said that Americans were sacrificing their greatest asset: the ability to fight mobile warfare, to strike rapidly with mobile artillery, helicopters and specially organized troops.

He returned to the United States in 1969 to become deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, number two post, which he held until 1972 when he became the 25th commandant of the Marine Corps. He was awarded the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Medal, and upon retiring from the Corps in 1975 was awarded a third Distinguished Service Medal.

Robert Everton Cushman Jr. was born Dec. 24, 1914, in St. Paul. He graduated 10th in his class of 442 from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1935. Before World War II, he was a platoon commander with the 4th Marines and later with the 2nd Marine Brigade in China.

Survivors include his wife, the former Audrey Boyce of Fort Washington; a son, Robert E. III, of Arlington; a daughter, Roberta Lind Cauley of Charlottesville, and a sister, Helen Cushman of California.



ROBERT E. CUSHMAN JR.

CUSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Retired Gen. Robert Everton Cushman Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps during the final years of the Vietnam war, is dead of an apparent heart attack at his Maryland home, the Marine Corps said Thursday. He was 70.

No further details surrounding his death Wednesday at his Fort Washington, Md., home were available immediately and the Marines said its 25th commandant will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery Monday.

Cushman, a former deputy director of the CIA, was commandant from Jan. 1, 1972 to July 1, 1975.

He earned the nation's second highest combat award -- the Navy Cross -- for extraordinary heroism while commanding a battalion as a 29-year-old lieutenant colonel on the Pacific island of Guam for a month in the summer of 1944.

Following three days of bitter fighting with the Japanese for the island, Cushman "personally led a platoon into the gap and, placing it for defense, repelled the hostile force," his citation read.

"By his inspiring leadership, courage and devotion to duty, he contributed materially to the success of the mission with the annihilation of one enemy battalion and the rout of another," it read.

Born Dec. 24, 1914, Cushman was appointed to the Naval Academy before his graduation from high school. He graduated from the academy 10th in a class of 442 and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant June 6, 1935.

Seven months later, he was sent to Shanghai, China, as a platoon commander. He returned to the United States two years later and was promoted to captain in 1941.

On Dec. 7 of that year, he was commanding officer of the Marine detachment aboard the battleship USS Pennsylvania when it was attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. He was transferred to San Diego, Calif., and was a major by September 1942.

During the war, he led his battalion "repeatedly into combat," earning the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" on Bougainville, the Navy Cross on Guam and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" during the Iwo Jima campaign.

Cushman was promoted to full colonel in 1950 while on the staff of the CIA and served in London for two years on the staff of the commander-in-chief of

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U.S. naval forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. He was transferred to Norfolk, Va., in 1953 and became the director of plans there. Assigned to Washington in 1957, Cushman served four years on the staff of then Vice President Richard Nixon and was promoted to brigadier general in 1958. He went from there to Okinawa and assumed command of the 3rd Marine Division there after promotion to major general in 1961.

He was sent to Vietnam in April 1967 and by June was promoted to lieutenant general, assuming the post of commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force -- the biggest combined combat unit ever led by a Marine.

While in Vietnam, he was nominated by Nixon to be deputy director of the CIA and confirmed by the Senate to that position in April 1969. He was in the post until December 1971, when he was nominated for the position of commandant.

Cushman is survived by his wife, the former Audrey Boyce of Portsmouth, Va., a daughter and a son.



EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

EB No. 1209

3 January 1985

DEATH OF GENERAL ROBERT E. CUSHMAN, JR.

1. General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., former Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (DDCI) and former Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, died suddenly at his home in Annapolis, Maryland on 2 January 1985.
2. General Cushman was born on 24 December 1914 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a 1935 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Prior to his retirement from the Marine Corps on 30 June 1975, General Cushman served as its 25th Commandant, a post which he assumed on 1 January 1972. General Cushman served as National Security Advisor to then Vice President Nixon during the years 1957 to 1961.
3. His first tour with the Agency was from November 1949 to May 1951 as a military detailee. He was promoted to the rank of colonel during this assignment. Eighteen years later, he was appointed DDCI on 21 April 1969 and served in that capacity until 31 December 1971. He was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal in recognition of his contributions to the Agency and the Intelligence Community.
4. Funeral services are scheduled for Monday, 7 January 1985 at 10 a.m. in the Ft. Myer Old Chapel, Ft. Myer, Arlington, Virginia. The family has requested that donations be made to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers.

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We have no previous request for information
on Gen. Cushman from WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

Judy